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June 1, 1949

Dear Pilgrim:

I attach a memorandum handed to me by Horatio, following certain conversations he has had with Mr. McLean. I believe the information contained in this memorandum should be in your files.

Sincerely yours.

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In the course of several conversations in Athens and Rome the following opinions concerning certain Albanian exiles were expressed by William McLean. McLean is a young Britisher, about 30-35, who spent more than a year in Albania during the war as the chief MEO (British Liaison Officer) with various non-Communist guerrilla bands, particularly with one led by Abbas Kupa who professed allegiance to the ex-King Zog. McLean's other wartime service included a hitch with Wingate's Raiders in Abyssinia, duty in China with rightist guerrillas and some time in India. He was a Conservative candidate for Parliament in the last elections and was defeated. He remains active in Conservative circles, plans to run again for Parliament in the next elections, and states that he is charged by a young Conservative group with following closely developments in the Balkans and the Near East. He has made two trips to Greece in the past six months, and in Athens, Rome and, I believe, in Egypt, he has seen a good deal of the principal Albanian exiles. It is possible that he does some work for the British Intelligence Service. His political sympathies are to the right. His extracts of certain Albanian personalities are as follows:

1. ex-King Zog - very clever, the shrewdest and most cunning as well as the most capable and unscrupulous of Albanian politicians. He wants to run Albania as his private reserve and will use all means to that end. He has almost no following at all in Albania. His former supporters, the tribal chieftains, have either been liquidated or otherwise rendered powerless by the Communists. Among the younger, more active generation Zog is despised as an anachronistic Turkish pasha. His reputation is low because of the way he ruled the country when he was King, his precipitous flight in 1938, his political and military inactivity during the war, his amoral life abroad since 1938 (he is popularly supposed to maintain a harem) and because of more than 10 years of Fascist and Communist propaganda against him. If an attempt was made to install a government in Albania headed by Zog, McLean believes that the Albanian people would rally to Hoxha or Tito.
2. Mikhat Frasheri - has a very good record and probably the best reputation in Albania of any political leader. He would be a good front man but should not be counted on for decisive action.
3. Abbas Kupa - best man professing allegiance to Zog; illiterate, cunning, shrewd, a good fighter, about 55, a real hillman, possesses a fairly good reputation in central and northern Albania.
4. Vasil Andoni - Frasheri's principal lieutenant; sincere, capable, a hard worker; no personal influence in Albania. The same goes for his brother Alfred who broadcasts in Albanian on the BBC.

/5. Abbas Ermenyi

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5. Abbas Ermenyvi - during the war the most capable military figure in the Balli Kombetar; opinionated, courageous; probably of little political importance.

6. Said Kriexyu - belongs to no party, fairly young and energetic, good fighter, good organizer, no particular following in Albania but might have some influence in Kessevo. (Frasheri says that the Kriexyu brothers, the other, Geni is in a Yugoslav jail, are known only as British agents).

7. Musa Yuka - Zogist, former minister of interior under Zog and still remembered with acute loathing in Albania for his activities in this post. A great and plausible liar, fine words but nothing but words; a liability to any movement.

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